

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 251445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1626

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, RH, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIA TALKS COMMENCE

1. ZAMBIAN NEWS AGENCY (ZANA) REPORTS PRESIDENT KAUNDA GREETED SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OUTSIDE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL ON ZAMBIA SIDE OF VICTORIA FALLS EARLY THIS MORNING. TWO LEADERS SUBSEQUENTLY ATTENDED FORMAL OPENING OF ANC - SMITH TALKS IN RAILWAY COACHES. SPEAKING AFTER SMITH, MUZOREWA, AND VORSTER IN THAT ORDER, KAUNDA URGED RHODESIA SIDES "TO BE BRIDGE THAT BRINGS US ALL TOGETHER." ADDED THAT HE AND VORSTER WERE " ONLY MESSENGERS" TO ANC AND SMITH RESPECTIVELY.

2. IN BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT IAN SMITH SAID HE AND HIS RHODESIAN FRONT (RF) COLLEAGUES HAD COME TO MEETING TO IMPLEMENT PRETORIA AGREEMENT "WITH HONESTY AND CONSTRUCTIVE FRAME OF MIND." MEETING AIMED AT BUILDING BRIDGES AND CLOSING RACIAL BARRIERS BETWEEN TWO WARRING SIDES. FOR ITS PART RF HAD MADE UP ITS MIND TO FORGET PAST.

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EM IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT MUZOREWA CALLED CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL

TALKS "THE LAST CHANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." THIS REMARK NOT MEANT AS THREAT TO ANYONE BUT STATEMENT OF "HARSH REALITY" OF RHODESIA SITUATION. HE WARNED AGAINST PERMITTING CONFERENCE TO DEGENERATE INTO MONTHS OF ARGUMENT OVER TRIVIAL MATTERS. ADDRESSING HIS ON DELEGATION AS WELL AS RF, MUZOREWA ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST PERMITTING EMOTION OR INTOSICATION WITH POWER TO INTERFERE WITH SUCCESS OF TALKS.

4 MUZOREWA ALSO SOUGHT REASURE RHODESIA WHITES THEY HAVE A FUTURE IN COUNTRY IF THEY WERE WILLING TO LIVE AND WORK ALONGSIDE BLACKS. IT WOULD BE WRONG, HE SAID, FOR WHITES TO REFUSE MAJORITY RULE ON ASSUMPTION IT WOULD LEAD TO ANARCHY AND CORRUP-TION SEEN IN SOME OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NOT ALL AFRICAN STATES SUFFER FROM MALADMINISTRATION - ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE WERE TWO GOOD EXAMPLES OF RESPONSIBLE MAJORITY RULE. ANC GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA PREPARED TO ENFORCE LAW AND ORDER, REMOVE ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION IN COUNTRY, GUARANTEE RIGHTS OF EVERY CITIZEN BEFORE THE LAW, AND ASSURE NO INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUAL AND HIS FAMILY. ARMED FORCES AND POLICE WOULD BE INTERGRATED INTO FUTURE ARMED FORCES OF ZIMBABWE.

5. MUZOREWA CONCLUDED THAT SHOULD COMMITTEE MEETINGS BE NECESSARY, "THEY SHOULD BE CONVENED IN NON-CONTROVERSIAL PLACES." EXPRESSED VIEW BOTH SIDES HAD DUTY OFFER "PLEASANT CHRISTMAS GIFT" OF HONORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR 1975.
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